

Public Comments

March 25, 2025

Good morning, Claire Nybro, Burnet County voter, taxpayer, and interested person.

I find it deeply troubling that this court and its general counsel allowed a county judge candidate to undermine the reputation of a fellow candidate during public comments on March 11th. While two commissioners apologized to the aggrieved candidate during a recess at the March 17 special session, to my knowledge, the other two commissioners did not, and neither did the general counsel, at least not publicly. Please let me know if I am mistaken about that. I am puzzled as to why the general counsel did not take immediate action to prevent the slander.

I'm also concerned about the lack of discussion regarding the county judge vote. The commissioners' court has probably never faced a decision of greater significance than this. One commissioner provided about 20 seconds of commentary, while another simply pointed out the deadlock resulting from the split vote and mentioned that there were three candidates. He then moved to nominate the third candidate, which received unanimous support. However, the voting process lasted only two minutes and thirty seconds. I reviewed the YouTube video and noted the time from when the agenda item was introduced to the end of the roll call vote.

Just two minutes and thirty seconds. That's all.

The way the motion was passed could be seen as a "rubber stamp" action, as the decision was made quickly with little to no public input or deliberation. TOMA, the Texas Open Meetings Act, requires that decisions made by governmental bodies be openly discussed in a manner that allows the public to witness and understand the "whys." The absence of any substantial discussion or explanation of the decision is concerning and reflects a practice that undermines the spirit of open governance and the intent of TOMA. Transparency is key to maintaining the public's trust in the decision-making process.

Your constituents have a right to understand the reasoning behind your votes; this clarity can only come through discussion. A thoughtful, well-reasoned analysis is essential for building trust between you and your constituents, and it's also a requirement under TOMA.

Thank you.